Updated Report: Sunday, 18th February 2024

135 days of the Israeli aggression against Gaza

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

catastrophic situation in numbers; the deadliest year for Palestinians

From October 7th until February 18th, 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Saturday evening, 17th of February 2024.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine as a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to genocide on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. Tangible advocacy and pressure for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[1][2][3]

Current Situation in numbers: (Gaza)

- Ongoing intense Israeli occupation attacks has persisted in the Nasser hospital complex, On 15 February hundreds of patients and staff had been relocated to a building within the hospital compound, where they lacked food, water, and baby formula, and that the hospital generators had stopped functioning, putting the lives of six patients on ventilators in the intensive care unit (ICU), and three premature babies, at risk. On the morning of 16 February five ICU patients had died due to the depletion of oxygen. On 15 February, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that the hospital had been shelled, killing and wounding an undetermined number of people, and that one of its staff was unaccounted for. On 15 February, Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, expressing his concern about developments at the hospital, stated the "wounded and sick, as well as medical personnel and facilities must be protected. All feasible precautions must be taken to spare patients, staff and civilians sheltering in the hospital. Hospitals must be places of greater safety, not of war."

[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against

[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/

[3] https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231229-pre-01-00-en.pdf?fbclid=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6IvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM_D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

- About 29 thousand Palestinian are martyrs killed by the Israeli Occupation in Gaza since October 7th, 2023. About 70 per cent of those are women (about 7850) and children (about 12,400). As of then, about 69 thousand Palestinians have been injured a large proportion of them are children.
- It is estimated that more than 8,000 are missing under rubble. Obtaining accurate figures about missing persons due to continues attacks and inadequate rescue missions.
- The Israeli occupation attacks on Rafah causing a larger humanitarian crisis in the area, as the city has become a refuge for forcibly displaced individuals, resulting in a population density surpassing 12,000 per square kilometer.
- The Israeli Occupation restrictions and blockade on aid reaching Gaza strip remains. The aid received in Gaza is inadequate and insufficient in addressing the essential needs of the population. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator stated that the humanitarian community faces challenges in supporting over 2 million people, including staff deaths and displacement, communication blackouts, road damage, convoy attacks, and medical facility attacks. Israeli restrictions hindered large-scale humanitarian efforts.
- The Israeli occupation telecommunication blackout is hindering residents in Gaza from accessing crucial lifesaving information, reaching out to first responders, and obstructing various forms of humanitarian response. It also poses challenges for obtaining on-the-ground reports about the situation and any atrocities occurring.
- After the Israeli occupation cut off the electricity supply and depleted fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant, the Gaza Strip has been without power since October 11. The communications and fuel shutdown hinders the aid community's efforts to assess Gaza's needs and respond to the growing humanitarian crisis.

Forced Displacement:

- Obtaining an accurate figure of the total number of Forcibly Displaced Persons remains challenging and the Israeli occupation continues to forcibly displace civilians every day. It is estimated that 85% of the population in Gaza (around 1.93 million civilians) are forcibly displaced. including many who have been displaced multiple times, as families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. Nearly 1.4 million FDPs were registered in 155 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south. Obtaining accurate data regarding the forcibly displaced persons is challenging outside of these shelters, given difficulties in tracking FDPs staying with host families or in the streets.
- Intensified airstrikes on Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population are crammed into less than 20 per cent of the Gaza Strip, Rafah governorate has become the primary place for displaced individuals, accommodating over one million people in an exceedingly high-density environment. This surge in population is a consequence of heightened Israeli aggression in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, compounded by evacuation orders issued by the Israeli occupation.

Health Care Access:

- On 7 February, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that there are currently no fully operational hospitals in Gaza, with only 36 percent of hospitals functioning partially.
- Additionally, UNRWA stated that out of 22 UNRWA health facilities, only four are operational due to ongoing bombardment and access restrictions. Only 13 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional.
- Hospitals in the north are currently providing maternity, trauma, and emergency care services, but they encounter several challenges, including a shortage of medical staff such as specialized surgeons, neurosurgeons, and intensive care personnel.

- A lack of essential medical supplies is another pressing issue faced by northern hospitals, along with an urgent need for fuel, food, and drinking water.
- In the southern region, the seven partially functional hospitals are operating at three times their capacity, exacerbating critical shortages of basic supplies and fuel.
- Occupancy rates in inpatient departments have increased to 206 percent, while intensive care units are experiencing an alarming 250 percent occupancy rate.
- Only 150 out of 325 known shelters currently have medical points with minimal capacity.

Acute shortage of medical supplies and health professionals at health facilities:

- Nasser and PRCS Al-Amal hospitals are suffering from a serious shortage of oxygen but are trying to share supplies to save lives.
- There is a severe shortage of medical personnel in most health facilities and hospitals with an ever-increasing demand due to the continues Israeli occupation and attacks and the public health catastrophe resulting from the attacks, forcible displacement, and restrictions policies.
- Medicine and medical supplies such as anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products are in short supply. Hospitals are experiencing a decline in the functionality of electrically dependent medical equipment such as monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT machines, lab analyzers, and anesthesia machines.
- There are challenges in accessing blood banks, and this has compelled requests from the forcibly displaced persons who are facing starvation to donate blood in order to provide treatment for the wounded.

Public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza:

- Imminent risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to unsanitary conditions, overcrowding and the extreme load on the health system rendering it dysfunctional.
- There is a high and alarming surge of outbreak cases recorded since mid-October: 223,000 cases of acute respiratory infections, 158,000 Cases of diarrhea (more than 53% of the cases of diarrhea is among children under five years of), 55,472 Cases of scabies and lice, 38,010 Cases of skin rashes 5,330 Cases of chickenpox 7,500 Cases of jaundice with several confirmed Hepatitis A cases.
- Gaza faces a critical stock-out of vaccinations, contributing to over 360,000 cases of infectious diseases in UNRWA shelters.
- Decomposing remains pose a risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.
- Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) are confronting the dual challenges of displacement and harsh winter conditions, including the risk of flooding. The combination of being forcibly displaced and exposed to cold weather poses significant hardships for this vulnerable population.
- The mental well-being of children is significantly affected, displaying signs such as heightened and persistent anxiety, loss of appetite, sleep disturbances, emotional outbursts, and panic triggered by the sound of bombings. Prior to the onset of the Israeli aggression, UNICEF had identified over 500,000 children in the Gaza Strip requiring Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. Presently, the estimate has risen to over 1 million children, indicating an urgent need for interventions protecting children.
- Vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals recovering from injuries or surgeries, and those with weakened immune systems, face challenging shelter conditions.

Health Needs and Risks of non-Communicable Diseases Long term conditions:

- 1,100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis
- More than 485,000 People with mental health disorders prior to the recent aggression. There is an increased risk of multiple psychological effects stemming from the intense bombardment, displacement and food insecurity coupled with severe physical injuries such as the loss of body parts. These challenges are further compounded by the devastating impact of seeing the bodies of the casualties around them and losing family members, homes, and dignity.
- 225,000 People with high blood pressure,45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease 71,000 Patients living with diabetes.
- More than 2,000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children.
- People in Gaza are facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs including acute shortage of needed medications.
- There is a substantial shortage of essential medication and healthcare services, is addition to the challenging access conditions.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health:

- As of February 2nd, UNICEF estimates 17,000 unaccompanied or separated children in the Gaza Strip, each embodying a poignant narrative of loss and sorrow. This figure accounts for 1% of the total displaced population, which amounts to 1.7 million people.
- Approximately 20,000 infants are born into the devastating impacts of the Israeli war on Gaza. There is around 52,000 Pregnant women, and around 183 Births per day.
- The health situation for both these infants and their mothers is critical, combined with life-threatening challenges such as forced displacement, a lack of medical care, and a shortage of vaccines. In addition, the already severe circumstances are further exacerbated by starvation, inadequate access to clean water, poor sanitation conditions, lack of safety.
- Following the Israeli occupation's attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel, the available resources for assisting expectant mothers and their newborns have dramatically decreased, forcing some to give birth in makeshift tents and unsanitary locations.
- Health workers report a significant increase in the rate of miscarriages and preterm deliveries since the commencement of Israeli attacks on Gaza.
- Pregnant women and displaced children in shelters face challenges such as thirst, malnutrition, insufficient healthcare, dehydration, respiratory and skin ailments, severe cold, and lack of vaccinations. In survey conducted on December 26th, 2023, UNICEF highlights significant concern regarding malnutrition, especially for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, along with over 135,000 children under the age of two.

Food insecurity:

- According to the Food Security Sector (FSS), a consistent and dependable food supply to serve the entire population of Gaza continues to be hindered by frequent border closures, longstanding import restrictions of goods into Gaza, damage to critical infrastructure, and the security situation. Food insecurity in North Gaza and Gaza governorates has especially reached an extremely critical state, given significant restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In Rafah, humanitarian conditions have become increasingly severe, with continued reports of people

stopping aid trucks to take food. Vulnerable segments of the population, including children, the elderly, and people with underlying health conditions, are particularly susceptible to the risk of malnutrition.

- Between 1 January and 12 February, 51 per cent of missions planned by humanitarian partners to deliver aid and undertake assessments to areas to the north of Wadi Gaza were denied access by the Israeli occupattion.

- The entire population in the Gaza Strip (2.2 million people) is at an imminent risk of famine as reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in December
  - 212.08 million at phase 3 (high level of acute food insecurity)
  - 930,000 people at phase 4 (emergency level)
  - 378,000 people at phase 5 (catastrophic level)

- UNICEF stated that around 90% of children under two years of age are facing severe food poverty.

Recorded attacks on Health Facilities and personnel:

- Since October 7th there is an ongoing direct and indirect attacks on health facilities and personnel. The Israeli occupation forces continues to bomb and attack hospitals, clinics, and ambulances. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces have killed and abducted several health personal, in addition to blocking the lifesaving medical and humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza.
- Continuous Israeli occupation forces bombardments pose a significant threat to the safety of medical staff, patients, and the estimated 7,000 IDPs seeking refuge at the Al Amal hospital.
- The medical teams on the ground are encountering difficulties in transferring critically injured individuals from Nasser Hospital to nearby health facilities, exacerbating the challenges in providing necessary medical care.
- On January 23rd, the Israeli occupation forces bombed Al-Amal Hospital in Khan Younis leading to casualties.
- In total 300 attacks on health facilities and personnel. This is the highest recorded total of attacks on healthcare facilities and their personnel worldwide.
- 340 health personnel martyred and 770 injured by the Israeli occupation in attacks.
- 100 Health workers detained/arrested.
- 150 Health facilities affected including 30 Hospitals damaged, in addition to 123 Ambulances damaged.

"We, as the UN and Member States of the UN, can bear witness. We can make clear what the law says: under international humanitarian law, indiscriminate bombing of densely populated areas may amount to war crimes." OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke told journalists in Geneva February 8th 2024.

STATE OF PALESTINE
Dr. Mai Alkaila
Minister of Health

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa stated that "this year has been the deadliest year on record for children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with conflict-related violence reaching unprecedented levels."
- WHO reports a significant rise in attacks against health care facilities and personnel in West Bank, with over 340 attacks reported since 7 October.
- Since 7 October, 398 Palestinians, have been martyred by the Israeli Occupation forces in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, 2023 is one of the deadliest years for Palestinians in the West Bank.
- Since 7 October, Israeli occupation forces have injured about 4,500 Palestinian civilians, including at least 637 children.
- Since 7 October, at least 198 Palestinian households comprising 1,208 people, including 586 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from at least 15 herding/Bedouin communities. More than half of the displacements occurred on 12, 15, and 28 October, affecting seven communities.
- A total of 19 homes have been demolished on punitive grounds since 7 October, resulting in the displacement of 95 Palestinians, including 42 children. Between January and September 2023, 16 homes were punitively demolished, resulting in the displacement of 78 Palestinians. Punitive demolitions are a form of collective punishment and as such are illegal under international law.
- Another 537 Palestinians, including 238 children, have been displaced since 7 October following the destruction of 82 residential structures during other operations carried out by Israeli forces across the West Bank.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Aiding in evacuating the wounded in need for treatment abroad.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.